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Pelham NEWS

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INSIDE

The Fonthill and District Kinsmen's 15th annual Home and Leisure Show drew large crowds to the Pelham Arena on the weekend.

The major fundraiser for the club promotes local small businesses in a trade show setting, with proceeds going to local charities.

See stories and photos on page 3.

See Inside:
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GREAT KIDS

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

The Tribune's search for Great Kids of South Niagara culminated with the Great Kids gala Sunday, where finalists were awarded in each category. Pictured from left are Diane Poirier, representing her grandson Jonathan Mancini who was unable to attend, Emily House, Nicky Thomas, Karissa Clack and Dakotah Ellero. Absent from the photo is Zoe Johnston.

Spotlight on the Great Kids in the community

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — Some stories made people cry, others made them laugh, but all put a spotlight on the Great Kids in the community.

The Tribune's fifth annual search for Great Kids of South Niagara culminated Sunday with the Great Kids Gala and Awards Ceremony at Welland Lions Hall.

Karin Vanderzee, event co-ordinator and *The Tribune's* circulation manager, said more than 200 people came together at the event to honour youth in the community that have strived for excellence.

see **GREAT KIDS** | A2

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■ **COUNCIL:** Honours to winners

Ontario champs and the Order of Canada

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Pelham town council handed out awards to winners and listened to two delegations at its Monday meeting.

Kenneth Kernaghan, Brock University public administration professor and author, recently received the Order of Canada from Governor General Michaelle Jean.

The Fenwick resident's achievement was acknowledged by council with the presentation of a framed certificate from the town.

Council cheered the town's provincial champions the Pelham Panthers Bantam A/E, who swept through the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs undefeated.

It earned the team a gift broom from Ward 3 Coun. John Durley as well as a team certificate marking the occasion along with individual certificates to each of the players.

The players wore their gold medals, championship caps and game sweaters. They received certificates from Mayor Dave Augustyn and shook hands with each of the councillors.

Two delegations appealed to town council for assistance.

Dave Ditor and Dennis Hernandez from Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion asked the town to enter a team in the Wheelchair Challenge Municipal Sector Race at Brock University June 13. The event draws attention to a campaign to build a wheelchair accessible exercise training facility at Brock University.

The facility would enable those with spinal cord injuries to maintain upper body strength they need for healthy lifestyles while using wheelchairs. The Brock site would provide experience for students in physiotherapy and other programs as they volunteer to work with exercisers going though rehabilitation and strengthening programs, Ditor said. Hernandez, who uses a wheelchair, said it took him "the better part of a day" to arrange to get to and from Hamilton "to do an hour of exercise."

Cathy Berkout-Bosse spoke for MyPelham.com website asking the town to provide a link from its website to the information website. The town has a policy of not linking to for-profit enterprises. Berkout-Bosse said the advertising sold on her site is only intended "to subsidize our overhead expenses."

She said other municipalities such as Welland provided links to media.

Town council sent the MyPelham.com and the Wheels in Motion requests to staff for review and report.

■ **GREAT KIDS**

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Michael Ross, left, of Pelham, was recognized as a semifinalist in the Personal Best category for ages 13 to 18 in *The Tribune*'s search for Great Kids of South Niagara. Pelham youth Aiden Robert Bruce, centre, was named one of four semifinalists in the Cool to be Kind category for ages six to 12. Pelham's Nicky Thomas, right, was named the top finalist in the Cool to be Kind category for ages 13 to 18.

Winners get help with future tuition fees

FROM PAGE 1

Over the past two months, nominations were submitted from members of the community hoping to recognize a Great Kid in their life.

Nominations were read and reviewed, with entries narrowed down to 20 outstanding youth from south Niagara.

Each of the 20 Great Kids semifinalists had an opportunity to shine as their selfless acts, accomplishments and goals were shared with their friends and family during the gala.

Each youth went home with a plaque recognizing their efforts in the community.

Six finalists were chosen from five categories, each receiving recognition of their accomplishments and a $500 Registered Education Savings Plan donated by event title sponsor Meridian Credit Union.

In the Cool to Be Kind category, which honours youth for acts of kindness, support and encouragement, Karissa Clack was selected as the top finalist for ages six to 12.

For ages 13 to 18 in the Cool to Be Kind class, Pelham's Nicky Thomas was honoured as the top finalist.

A tie was drawn in the Against All Odds category for six-to 12-year-olds, naming both Dakotah Ellero and Zoe Johnston as top finalists.

Against all Odds honours youth who have persevered over a mental, physical, personal, economic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal.

In the Personal Best category, which honours youth who've achieved a level of performance above what might have been expected, Jonathan Mancini was chosen as the top finalist for ages six to 12 and Emily House was chosen for ages 13 to 18.

Twelve-year-old Mac Bell, a 2009 Great Kids top finalist, told the crowd he remembered how nervous and excited he was last year, sitting anxiously in his seat awaiting each winner's name to be called.

He told the semifinalists that it's not really about winning, but about "what we do and have."

"Something we do is persevere, and something we have are blessings," he told the crowd.

TVCogeco will televise the gala Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at at noon and Sunday at 2 p.m.

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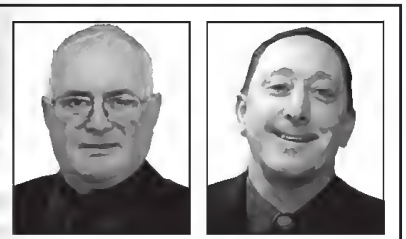
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■ **COMMUNITY:** Proceeds to Pelham Cares, other charities

Kinsmen home show attracts bargain hunters

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Ellen Montgomery-Dykstra, of Country Stained Glass, hoped to reach new clients for her custom stained glass window and restoration business during the 15th annual Fonthill and District Kinsmen Home and Leisure Show at Pelham Arena from April 16 to 18.

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

Whether it's windows, vitamins, pet supplies or furniture, it was found at the Home Show.

The Pelham Arena was transformed last weekend with the 15th annual Fonthill and District Kinsmen Home and Leisure Show drawing crowds from Friday to Sunday.

With close to 90 booths showcasing more than 70 local businesses, the show offers a wide variety of vendors from across Niagara.

Kevin Twomey, public relations director for the Kinsmen Club, said the goal of the show is to bring local consumers together with local businesses. He said the event is not only an opportunity to browse the products and services offered in the region, but also to socialize with people from the community.

"People come out to the show to see people they haven't seen in a while, maybe haven't seen since last year's show, or in years."

This year the service organization is donating 100% of the $2 admission charge directly to Pelham Cares and a few select other local charities.

In the past, proceeds went entirely to Pelham Cares, but Twomey said but with other area charities in need the Kinsmen have stepped up to the plate.

"They need belp, and we don't want to see any of those wonderful groups close their doors."

The annual business trade show has become the service group's major fundraiser for the year. On average, Twomey estimates roughly 2,000 people make their way through the doors of Pelham Arena during the three-day home show.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Bobbi-Joan Lococo, of Sweet Thoughts, showcased a wide array of chocolate products, including chocolate bouquets for all occasions, at the Fonthill and District Kinsmen Home and Leisure Show Saturday.

He was hopeful that with the weekend weather on the dreary side, more people would be looking for indoor activities, such as the trade show, to occupy their time.

"We're always around 2,000 people and we'll probably exceed that."

He said the Kinsmen try to keep the show "fresh" each year with a number of new vendors setting up shop.

Vendors offered a variety of products and services, such as decks and home renovations, cosmetics, landscaping, photographs and jewelry.

Proceeds from the booth rentals, whicb Twomey said is kept affordable for Niagara's small business owners, goes toward community groups dealing with Huntington's disease, cancer, fetal alcohol syndrome and a local Cub group raising money for a trailer.

Bobbi-Joan Lococo, of Sweet Thoughts in Ridgeville, was hoping to remind people of the chocolatey treats she offers from her store on Canboro Rd.

Her booth was filled with every kind of chocolate goodie a sweets lover could dream of, including the chocolate bouquets the business offers for every occasion.

Lococo hoped to reach a new audience by showcasing her products at the home show, which she attended this year as a first-time vendor.

Fontbill resident Anne Grande said she comes out to the show every year to browse what the local vendors have to offer.

While Grande likes to look at the merchandise, she also enjoys running into people she knows during the event.

Debbie and Bob Elliott came from Thorold for tbe show. An annual attendee, Bob said he likes that most vendors are local and offer quality products easily accessible in the area.

It's important to support local businesses, his wife Debbie said, adding each year they come to the show with certain renovations for their home in mind.

"It was windows and doors last year; this year, it's the bathroom," she said with a laugh. "We haven't missed a year. It's always a good show," Bob said.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

comment

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e-mail: pelhamnews@wellandtribune.ca
advertising: tribcomp@wellandtribune.ca
Ken Koyama
PUBLISHER, GENERAL MANAGER
Wayne Campbell, EDITOR

perspective

Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Taking out the garbage

Niagara regional council finds itself embroiled in a debate over garbage pickup.

Superficially, it centres around weekly two-bag versus three-bag pickup every two weeks.

From a broader view, it's part of a shift that would see weekly rather than every-two-week pickup of blue (plastics and containers) grey (paper) and green (yucky scraps) bins. The idea is to get more people using the recycling bins. They become more convenient through frequency of pickup. You don't have to ask: what colour is it this week?

Meanwhile, stuffing stuff into the bags to go to fast-filling landfill sites becomes less convenient.

Cans, bottles, cardboard, papers, uneaten vegetables, peelings, and meat scraps get recycled or reused in someway or other.

When my environmental conscience kicks in, I see the benefit of the switch.

I'm inspired by my son who has a three-part garbage container in his kitchen to ease sorting.

I'm guilted into action by my wife, who will leave me waiting in the car while she carries out cereal boxes, pop cans, newspapers and those delicate green bags to the appropriate bins.

However, there are times, usually after a long day, when the last thing you want to do is try to figure out what goes this week and what doesn't.

It doesn't matter what colour or container it is. It is a nuisance.

You become suspicious of any plan that results in a reduction of service. You remember the fables told how self-serve gasoline bars will ease gas prices and ATMs will trim bank service charges.

If you have a couple of adults and a flock of kids in the house, putting out the garbage must become the challenge of the week.

It's the next unreal reality show you see on TV.

ORDER OF CANADA

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Mayor Dave Augustyn, left, presents a framed plaque of recognition to Order of Canada recipient Kenneth Kernaghan of Fenwick. The Brock University professor received the Order medal, which he showed town council, from Gov.-Gen. Michaelle Jean in Ottawa two weeks ago.

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NIAGARA REGION: More locals are turning to the government for help

Increased demand for social assistance

Brian Baty
REGIONAL COUNCIL VIEW

Media reports indicate that the recession is over; that Canada is emerging faster and stronger than other countries; that things are getting better.

Those reports may be true for many Canadians but not so for those hardest hit by the recession. In 2009, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) experienced a 19.43% increase in caseload. In the first quarter of 2010 the caseload increased by 13.29% over the March 2009 caseload.

The hard numbers are even more compelling; there are 9,838 cases on Ontario Works representing 20,124 people, many of whom are children. From February to March alone there were 219 cases added involving 484 individuals.

For many individuals this increase comes as their Employment Insurance ends and they have gone on welfare for the first time.

Brian Hutchings, commissioner of community services, indicates that the total number of individuals receiving assistance is approaching the highest numbers during the last recession in the mid-nineties. He also indicated that, should the recession completely end today, that it would take another two years for the assistance caseload to reduce to pre-recession levels.

The point here is that individuals and agencies who call for assistance for food, clothing, shelter and other supports need our help now more than ever.

One component of that is the Konnecting Kids program of Pelham Cares which is being supported this year from the proceeds of the Mayor's Gala on May 8. The costs of equipment, uniforms, fees and travel can be a barrier for many families.

The Konnecting Kids program through Pelham Cares and the regional program, Pro-Kids through the YMCA provide a means for families to allow their children to participate, even in tough times.

The increased caseload for social assistance has put a strain on the caseworkers who serve these clients. Last year the staffing was increased by 5% to serve an increased caseload of 19.43%. Regional council this week will support the hiring of an additional nine temporary staff to accommodate the ever-increasing caseload.

However, it should be noted that, even with this increase, case managers will oversee 162 cases rather than the optimal caseload of 120. Funding for this expense will come from a Social Assistance Reserve Fund which holds a balance of approximately $8 million. Earlier councils wisely established this reserve account otherwise these increased costs would have required a tax increase during a very difficult year.

see **BATY** | A5

What to do with town lands?

Since March 31 marked the fifth anniversary of the previous Council's purchase of 32 acres of property at the corner of Rice Road and Highway #20, I want to provide you with an update.

Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

You may recall that in January 2005, the previous Council decided to purchase the 32 acres for nearly $3.53 million — an average of $110,000 per acre — from Westerra Equities Corp. As of Dec. 31, 2009, the Town has paid $736,875 in interest and $838,098 in principal with $2.75 million owing on the loan. (For detailed financial information, please see www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.)

That purchase was based on a December 2004 appraisal that stated its valuation followed "Extraordinary Assumptions."

For example, the appraisal assumed that the site possessed full water and sewer servicing. In reality, water and sewers weren't available until the fall of 2007.

The major "Extraordinary Assumption", however, appraised the property as if it contained 8.2 acres of commercial land along Highway 20, and 23.4 acres of business park lands.

In reality, the entire property was — and still is — officially designated "business park." The Town paid approximately $91,000 per acre for the business park lands and $188,000 per acre for the faux-commercial lands.

Can't Council just fix the zoning, you ask? In this case, it's quite complicated.

You see, the previous Council almost changed the property's designation in April 2006 when it almost approved the Town's East Fonthill Secondary Plan.

(The East Fonthill Secondary Plan is a detailed statutory planning exercise that covers most property east of Station Street from Highway 20 along Rice Road to south of Merritt.)

Instead they accepted the majority Landowners Group demand and stopped the planning work.

Then, just as had been warned, the Province changed all municipal planning in June 2006.

see **AUGUSTYN** | A5

■ BATY

Consider helping

FROM PAGE 4

If the recession is over in your home, consider helping those less fortunate. The boats are rising in the harbour but not all are rising at the same level.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham and Co-Chair of the Public Health & Social Services Committee brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

■ AUGUSTYN

Fifth anniversary of town's 32-acre land purchase

FROM PAGE 4

Among many other changes, the Province locked all "business park" lands — including the Town's.

Then, in September 2006, Council relinquished the Secondary Plan process to the Landowner's Group.

So, how is this council moving forward?

This council hired an expert to work directly with the Landowner's Group to complete the Secondary Plan; the group began presenting final drafts to the town last week.

Then, at an Official Plan open house on April 27, the Town will show the rationale to unlock the province's "business park" rules.

Finally, the results of a 2009 special council workshop for the development of the town-owned lands and the final report by the Recreational Facilities Committee are both expected to come forward this spring.

These next steps will be critical to help council finally decide how best to redesignate, sell, and make use of the lands.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca

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■ **ANNIVERSARY:** One-time Methodist church heart of community

Fenwick United Church to celebrate 175th year

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Typically for a major celebration, you invite a prominent out-of-town guest speaker.

Fenwick United Church will emphasize its deep community roots by inviting the members to talk about their experience in the church, said Rev. Alan McLean.

"We want them to tell us what the church means to them," he said.

Fenwick United, which puts the church into Church St. in downtown Fenwick, will celebrate its 175th anniversary at its regular 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 2.

"We are welcoming new, long-time and former members back for a reunion," he said.

The celebration will include a potluck luncheon after the service again reflecting. the community base.

The church traces its history back to the United Empire Loyalists of the late 1700s and into the early 1800s.

It was the period of Methodist circuit riders, called saddleback preachers, who travelled around the Niagara Peninsula and throughout Upper Canada.

They held services in kitchens, barns and fields, "where stumps served as pulpits and a clearing as a cathedral," as the Pelham Historical Society describes it in a short outline of the church's history in its calendar series.

"Egerton Ryerson was a circuit rider," said McLean, although he didn't know if the creator of the Ontario education system preached in Fenwick.

The Fenwick church was in the Methodist New Connection on a circuit with Welland.

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Fenwick United Church member Brian Walker and Rev. Alan McLean stand beside a sign in front of the church promoting the 175th anniversary of Fenwick United Church, which will be celebrated on Sunday May 2.

By1835 it was ready to create a formal church and built a wooden building.

A number of churches went up across Niagara in the 1800s "within a wagon's ride of farms," said Brian Walker a long-time church member. "That why you have small churches all around Niagara."

The church has membership lists dating back to 1864. Those from before that time have been lost, he said.

The names on the list reflect the history of Fenwick – Fry, Crowe, Garner, Swayze, Dowdy, Stirtzinger – with many of them still common in the area today.

The existing building was built in 1900 with additions in 1952 and 1956.

"One addition was put on to replace the brick structure, but it has turned into the hall," said Walker.

Fenwick United has recently under gone a major $600,000 overhaul to make it more accessible.

"It includes a real elevator," said McLean.

Walker said the church did have a chair lift but some people were nervous or embarrassed to use it despite knee, hip and other mobility problems.

Even with the new elevator, some people will complain about a climb rather than use it because they think its for old people, he said with a laugh.

Fenwick has always been tied up with the community around it and continues a tradition of supporting people through Women's Place, assisting Welland Central United with its hot food program, helping the Hope Centre and contributing to the Canadian Food Grains program.

"The Ontario Early Years program has operated in our hall for seven years," said Walker.

At one time the church's membership walked to church or rode a short distance as the church and its surrounding community blended together.

However, Walker said only a handful of families walk.

Many of the members drive from around Pelham as well as Welland, Wellandport, St. Catharines and farther.

Part of it is consolidation. Wellandport United members shifted to Fenwick after their church closer. Part of it is mobility. People stay connected with home churches when they move. Walker lives in Fonthill.

McLean is a relatively new minister coming to Fenwick last September.

Before him Rev. Elizabeth Agnew served for 13 years and Rev. Murray Massecar for 10.

Walker said they hope to attract former ministers and members to the May 2 reunion and have asked current members to spread the good word.

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■ **CANCER:** Beautiful Lengths program accepts hair to make wigs for cancer patients

Losing her long locks for cancer patients

DAVID JANZEN Pelham News Photo

Madeline Wallace, 12, from Fonthill is going to be cutting her hair for the first time in ages on April 28. She'll be donating her locks to Pantene Pro-V's Beautiful Lengths program in support of cancer patients who have lost their hair. She has been growing her long locks for so long, she can't remember when she last had her hair cut.

DAVID JANZEN
For PelhamNews

FONTHILL— Rapunzel, Rapunzel cut off your long hair.

In this case, Rapunzel is 12-year-old Madeline Wallace of Fonthill, a student at Glynn A. Green Public School.

Wallace says she hasn't been to the hair dresser in "a very long time," but she's got an appointment booked at Salon Utopia for Wednesday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m.

At least eight inches of her hair, which sweeps over her shoulders down to her waistline, will be donated to a program called Beautiful Lengths. The project is jointly run by Pantene Pro-V hair products and the Canadian Cancer Society.

They send strands of hair to wigmakers who make wigs for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, or other cancer treatments.

> **"I'd be happy with anyone joining me, the more the better."**
>
> *Madeline Wallace*

"We're hoping the hair can be used for children's wigs," says Wallace's mother, Monique Mulder-Wallace.

Wallace says she got the idea from her mom. She has already raised $15 from a donation jar at school and received $175 from online donations through the cancer society.

Her goal is to raise $500.

Wallace's teacher, Brian Mako, says she is doing all of this without any prompting.

"I admire her, she's setting a great example to the other students at school."

In order to weave one wig, wigmakers require at least 12 ponytails and end up costing about $1,200.

Since the program started in 2007, it has fashioned about 200 wigs with $250,000 raised for cancer research.

Madeline says she isn't worried about how she'll look.

"I'm proud to be supporting a good cause."

Cancer has touched three people in Madeline's life: her friend Ella Owen, her uncle Keith Wallace and her grandfather Arie Mulder, who died in 2002. Wallace has two information posters up at school and has issued a challenge to her classmates and anyone in the area to join her in chopping off some hair for cancer.

"I'd be happy with anyone joining me, the more the better."

Pantene has donation kits available along with a set of instructions for sending her hair to them. A minimum length of eight inches can be donated, provided the hair is free of hair products, clean, dry and unbraided.

Anyone interested in supporting Wallace can reach her at 905-892-9990 or visit http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR/Thirdpartyevent/IFE_ON_CommunityPartnerships_?px=3497597&pg=personal&fr_id=6600

David Janzen is a Niagara College print journalism intern at The Tribune.

PelhamNEWS

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SKILLS COMPETITION

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The District School Board of Niagara recently held it's Technological Skills Awards Celebration with the following students being awarded medals from E. L. Crossley. They are from left to right; Evan Spruyt (Small Powered Equipment, Bronze), Sierra Fishbach (Job Skills, Gold), Jaclyn Cook (Photography, Silver), Manny Pagotto (Desktop Publishing, Bronze), Lyla North, Taryn Short (2D Character Animation, Bronze), Jamie MacDonald (Job Interview, Gold), Emily Harrison (Job Interview, Silver), Gurtej Multani (Electrical Wiring, Gold). Gurtej, Jamie, Jaclyn, and Sierra will be competing at the Provincial Skills Championships held at RIM park in Waterloo next month. In addition, students from Crossley also competed in the Mechanical CAD and Carpentry challenges.

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Q. What is a soft liner?
The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not halt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?
To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortable and effectively. • This will extend the health of your gum as well as ensure maximum adherence.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?
Permanent soft liner provide comfort and relief for individuals with:
• Severely receded or flat gums that do no tolerate the stress of dentures • Chronic soreness

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WHO KNEW?

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Julie Prescesky of Jules Mae Sustainable Clothing, left, artist Azra Momin and Alison Ellett of Alison Ruth Designs are joined by chef Wolfgang Sterr of Wildflower Market Restaurant. A group of local artisans and designers will hold a girls night out called Who Knew? on Thursday, April 29. The evening is designed to show the work of local home-based artisans who, while popular online, are relatively unknown locally. Tickets are available at www.whoknew.ca.

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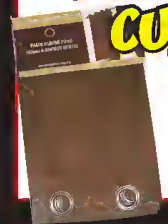

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EARTH DAY

Supplied Photo

These garbage bags decorated by St. Alexander Catholic School students were passed out at the Fonthill Sobeys during Earth Day Thursday as part of the 17th annual Earth Day groceries project. This is the 15th year St. Alexander has participated. Each bag has an environmental message from the students. The school will post a report of the project's website www.earthdaybags.org. The project started in 1994, with 43 schools reporting the decoration and distribution of 13,000 Earth Day Grocery Bags. In 1999, the number of schools reporting in reached nearly 1,200, with students decorating almost 400,000 Earth Day Grocery Bags. In recent years St. Alexander's reports have regularly appeared.

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■ **LIBRARY:** Regional writers, filmmakers and presenters

Pelham library speaker series takes a local turn this spring

PelhamNEWS Staff

Speakers at the Pelham Public Library this spring will take on a distinctly regional flavour.

"It's more by accident than design," said co-ordinator Elaine Anderson about a lineup that includes two books about Niagara Falls, a documentary film about John Deere closing its Welland plant and a Welland-born expert speaking about the assassination of the American president John F. Kennedy.

Anderson arranged for a return of Catherine Gildiner with a new book, *After the Falls*. It follows up her earlier memoir *Too Close to the Falls*.

Then Anderson heard about Cathy Marie Buchanan who wrote a novel, *The Day the Falls Stood* Still which includes references to famous Niagara riverman Red Hill.

Buchanan, who was born and raised in Niagara Falls, will read from The Day the Falls Stood Still on May 19 at 2 p.m.

"This debut novel is receiving wide acclaim" from Canadian and American newspapers, said Anderson.

For the reading there is a $7 fee and you should pre-register.

In *After the Falls*, Gildiner recounts her remarkable coming-of-age in the 1960s with the same wit, candour and exhilarating storytelling that has made *Too Close to the Falls* a modern classic.

She reads on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. The fee is also $7 and requires registration ahead. For this reading the library is support of the Writer's Union of Canada through Canada Council for the Arts. Gildiner was born and raised in Lewiston, N.Y., and lives in Toronto.

Between the two readings at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, the library will present the documentary *Dear John*.

On Sept. 2, 2008, 800 workers found out that John Deere Welland would be closed by November 2009. Director Mark Lammert and producer Charles Smith, film students at Niagara College, explore the circumstances leading up to the closure and raise awareness of the dramatic impact of the recession.

Fee is $2.50 with pre-registration.

Finally, JFK: Unsolved Mystery returns to the Pelham library June 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Welland native Randy Owen returns to speak to the "Single Bullet Theory."

The accuracy of this theory becomes important to the timing of the fatal shot and to the number of shooters, said Anderson. She suggests registering early because of the popularity of the program.

Owen has spent his life researching the Kennedy assassination.

■ AFGHANISTAN

Fonthill army cadet grad flies Welland flag at Kandahar base

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Welland's blue, yellow, and red, crest-centred and white-lettered bilingual flag flies among a row of banners at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

It's the home of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, an almost 500-member Canadian team of diplomats, corrections specialists, development experts and military and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers.

Welland native Capt. Ian Dohn, 39, serves as the city's standardbearer. He is a graduate of the Fonthill based 613 Lincoln and Welland Regiment Army Cadet Corps.

He will return the flag to Welland with certificates saying it flew in Kandahar when he finishes his tour of duty later in the spring.

Dohn, who is with the military police mentoring Afghan police officers, is based in Edmonton.

"After being overly career oriented for 34 years, I married four-plus years ago and have my wife Cathy, 22-year-old stepson Nicholas, and 17-month-old daughter Piper Lynn eagerly awaiting my return to Edmonton," he told *The PelhamNEWS* in an e-mail interview this weekend from Kandahar.

Supplied Photo

Capt. Ian Dohn holds his hometown flag, Welland's city flag, which is now flying at Camp Nathan Smith at the Khandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team centre in Afghanistan. The flag will return to Welland with official confirmation that it flew over the base.

Dohn grew up on First Ave. N. attended Lloyd Rice and Quaker Road elementary schools and Centennial Secondary School and was part of the 613 Army Cadet Corps based in Fonthill.

"I was raised in what was then the northern fringes of Welland, on First Ave. N., in a house with character development commencing in 1876," he said.

It was the original dwelling on the property that Niagara College and surrounding subdivisions were constructed.

"We retained grandfathered rights to raise some animals – rabbits, pheasants, chickens - and 'babysat' a pair of goats and a duck on the property as the city expanded around us," he said.

From his years in Welland, he said he has fond memories of six years with the army cadet corps.

"Some of those activities occurred in Welland, during canoeing and canoe rescue training on the canal near the Lincoln St. Bridge, and nearly drowning after swimming out to assist a floundering canoe?" he said.

Dohn's mother still lives in Welland along with "the majority elements of both maternal and paternal families."

Dohn has not been in any fighting in Afghanistan

"Given that my role in Afghanistan is not one of fighting the immediate battles, but of co-ordinating and mentoring efforts for long term self-sustainability of the Afghan police, and by extension, contributing to the development of rule of law and civil governance — e.g. not fighting the tactical battles, but winning the war more on the operational and strategic level with a view to winning the peace."

"I have not been in any fire fights," he writes in his e-mail.

However, he has seen the results of the war. He has been to the scenes of recent IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosions.

He has seen the loss of comrades.

"We lost several members of the KPRT, one of whom I began training with in February 2009, Lt. Justin Boyes from 3 PPCLI (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) in Edmonton. To date I have attended nine memorial services (two were for more than one individual simultaneously), three ramp ceremonies, and delivered one eulogy."

Dohn said he has found Afghanistan a land of extremes with many shades of grey.

"There is extreme beauty in the landscapes, and extreme ugliness in the rivers of raw sewage and other unidentifiable matter running through the streets with young children playing in it; extremes of hospitality and hostility, of poverty and relative affluence, of honour and cut-throat criminality."

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TOWN COUNCIL: Honouring all-Ontario hockey champs

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Members of the Pelham Panthers Bantam A/E hockey team wear their team jerseys, championship hats and Ontario Minor Hockey Association gold medals as they receive certificates of recognition for their provincial championship from the Town of Pelham at a town council meeting Monday.

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Mayor Dave Augustyn pouts as he pays off his bet with Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne by wearing a Welland hat at Pelham town council Monday. The Pelham Mayor's Youth Advisory Council lost the Welland Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in a dodgeball tournament for Welland and Pelham youths at the Niagara Centre YMCA in Welland recently.

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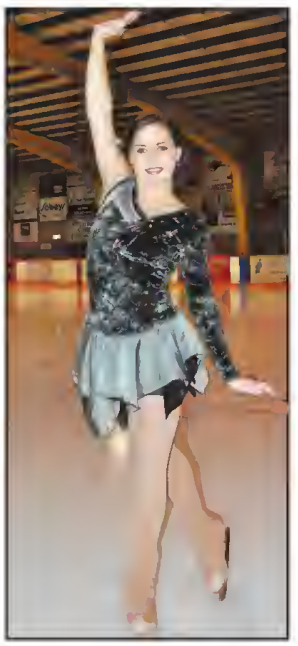
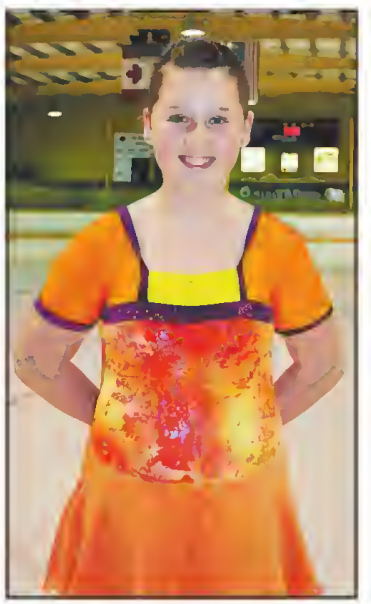


DAVE JOHNSON
Staff Photo
Martyna Raskob, of Fonthill, is a five-time gold medalist. The Pelham Figure Skating Club member, who joined the club when she was six, achieved her gold medal in all five Skate Canada figure skating disciplines 1/3 freeskate, skills, interpretive, dance and diamond dance. Her coaches over the years were Carolann Woodland and Brian Gula.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Pelham Figure Skating Club winners from the Futures East Competition, held in Niagara-on-the-Lake in early March, include, back row from left: Lexi Madison, silver in pre-preliminary A; Elaine Cook, bronze in pre-preliminary B; and Carolyn Ramsey, silver in pre-preliminary A; front row from left: Audrey Morrison, gold medal in pre-preliminary A; Gwen Gibson, silver in Canskate (eight and over); Christine Pascuzzi, gold in pre-preliminary A; and Jordan Reeves, gold in pre-preliminary B. Absent was Brianna Hummell, who took a silver in pre-preliminary A.



DAVE JOHNSON
Staff Photo
Bailea Watt recently won a gold medal in eliminative skills. The 13-year-old Fonthill figure skater, who skates with Pelham Figure Skating Club, has been skating for the past nine years. She's coached by Kelly Marr Pascuzzi and Carolann Woodland and will pick up her gold medal at a dinner in May.

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BASKETBALL: Team finishes inaugural season

Panthers close season at provincial championship

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham Panther major atom boys basketball team closed out its inaugural season at the Ontario Cup Basketball Championships April 9-11 in Ottawa. The Panthers were placed in a tough Division 4 and battled their way to a 1-2 record for the weekend.

In spite of some spirited play, their record was not quite enough to qualify for the playoff round. Pelham started out the tournament on a great note, beating an extremely fast and scrappy team YAAACE No. 2 team from Toronto.

YAAACE came out of the gates on fire to take a 12-7 opening period lead, surprising the Panthers with their full court zone press and run and gun style. As the game wore on and the Panther players settled down, Pelham was able to take advantage of their opponent's chaotic play and execute some great team offense and defense of their own.

In the end, Pelham simply outplayed YAAACE and came away with a well-earned 42-35 win.

Game No. 2 saw Pelham face a familiar Blessed Sacrament No. 2 team. The Panthers had played two very closely contested games earlier in the year against the Yellow Jackets, and this affair was no different. The Jackets took advantage of ice-cold shooting by Pelham to take an 8 point lead at the half.

Pelham's defense clamped down in the third quarter and pulled themselves to within two points. With time ticking away,

Pelham was unable to mount any kind of offense and were forced to foul Blessed Sacrament repeatedly to stop the clock.

Unfortunately for Pelham the opponents were "lights out" from the free throw line - final score was 51-38 for the Jackets.

The third game was a fantastic match against the Nepean Bobcats. The Bobcats started out strong and took a 19-14 half-time lead by using their distinct height advantage. Sensing a possible end to their season, Pelham mounted a spirited comeback at the end of the 3rd quarter to tie the game.

Nepean quickly battled back with their lightning-quick twin point guards dropping 13 points in a four-minute stretch. Down but not out, the Panthers refused to quit. Pelham responded with lock-down defense, clutch baskets, and strategic fouls to pull to within two points.

With possession of the ball, the clock stopped and 20 seconds to go, Coach Paul Grummett drew up a play from the bench. The boys executed it to perfection and got a lay-up shot which just rimmed out as the buzzer sounded. Game over, season over. Final score was Nepean 47-45.

Leading Pelham in Ottawa was guard Bailey Moreau with 41 points, 5 steals and great ball handling.

Next was Kyle Cooper who battled hard to land 24 points and 14 rebounds. Skyler Grummett soared over the weekend with 15 points, 14 rebounds and 8 assists. Owen Gallagher was next with 13 points, followed by Jared Naar with 10 points, 13 rebounds and 4 steals.

Josh Mosley found his stroke from the line with 9 points to go with 10 rebounds. Rounding out the scoring was Ben Kalchman (five points), MacKenzie Bronn, Jordan Pisano, Jacob Dotton and Chris Fairman who each had two points. Gabriel Marais hustled and sacrificed his bruised body all weekend to help the Panthers cause.

The boys would like to thank Coaches Paul Grummett and Andrew Mosely for their dedication and patience during this long and successful season. Three gold medals and some very exciting basketball against strong big-city teams will attest to how well the season went.

The Panthers thanked parents for their enthusiasm and commitment towards the team and the sponsors for helping bring together everything needed for a great season.

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Pelham Historical Society open meeting at 2.30 p.m. at Kirk-on-the-Hill, Haist St. Fonthill. A talk on the Lakeside Park Carousel. All Welcome.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Pelham Horticultural Society at Pelham Public Library Fonthill. general meeting 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Dream oasis as you listen to Bob Cheriton of Rice Road Greenhouses and Garden Centre, presenting his topic Small Water Features. Refreshments available new members and guests welcome.

Wainfleet Historical Society will meet on Monday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the PI hall of the Marshville Heritage Village in Wainfleet.

Member Roland Meisel will present The Year in Review — a slideshow. Everyone welcome. For more information call 905-386-6978

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

The Welland Camera Club's own Leigh Daboll will present, The Niagara Insider's Guide to Twenty Secret Photo Day Trips a must for anyone living in the area.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave N. For info contact Larry Lanigan 905-892-4699.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Craft Fair for the residents of Shorthills Villa, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. There will be refreshments served.

National Mom2Mom Sale for Unity for Autism, $2. entrance fee per adult, 9:30am-1:30pm. Tables are being booked now for $25 and sale is taking place at Welland Centennial Secondary School, 240 Thorold Rd. Moms are needed to sell gently used children's clothing, toys and accessories.

To book a table, email Chris cfrere@vaxxine.com or call Cathy at 905-892-6876

Welland Camera Club is holding it's yearly Plant, Bake and Garage Sale on Saturday May 1, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Wesley United Church parking lot, 244 First Ave. N. Welland.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Mom 2 Mom sale of used and new items from 9 a.m .- 12 p.m. Admission $1 Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill Street, Fonthill. For information fonthillmom2mom@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Welland Camera Club Awards Banquet featuring James Thibert's presentation Astro Photography and More will be held Wednesday May 12t at 6:30 p.m. Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N. Tickets $15.

Info contact Larry Lanigan 905 892-4699

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Perennial plant sale and bake table from 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Fenwick United Church, 1050 Church Street in the church parking lot and church hall.

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OLD HOME EXPO - May 1st & 2nd, 2010, 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre, 1280 Dundas St. West (Hwy #5), Oakville Traditional Home Products, Old Home Experts & FREE WORKSHOPS Admission $10. More information www.OldHomeExpo.com, 519-752-9601.

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